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Telegram From the Central Intelligence Agency Station in Saigon to the President's Special Assistant (Rostow), Secretary of State Rusk, Secretary of Defense McNamara, and the Director of Central Intelligence (Helms)

Saigon, December 29, 1967, 2052 Z .

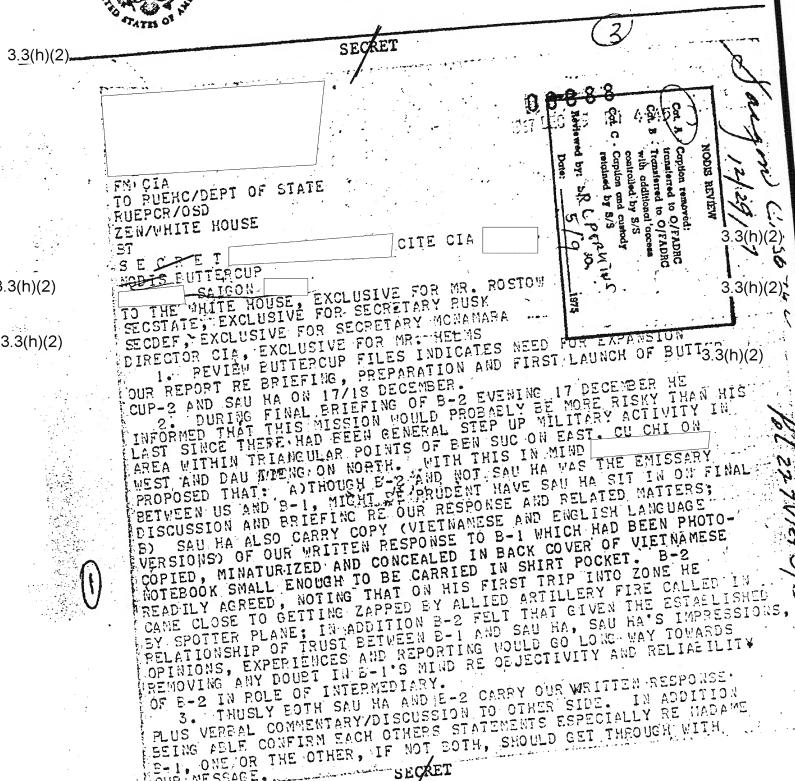
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1. Source:/Department of State, Central Files, POL 27-7 VIET S/BUTTERCUP. Secret; Nodis; Buttercup. Received at 4:45 p.m.



Department of State

TELEGRAM



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-2- CIA , DEC 29

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N 483

TAL NEW SUBJECTS: A. SINCE DEPARTURE 5-2 AND SAU HA FROM SAIGON ON 18 DECEMBER WE HAVE MOVED MADAME 8-1 INTO WEW SAFE HOUSE WHERE SHE HAS CAS FEMALE STAFFER (LINGUIST) AS COMPANION: IN ADDITION TWO OTHER CAS LINGUISTS AND/OR/CAS OFFICER MEET WITH HEP ALMOST EVERY DAY FOR GENERAL DISCUSSIONS, WHICH LEADS INTO ELICITATION SESSION ON HER, HER HUSBAND AND FAMILY, BACK- : GROUND AND THEIR ROLE WITH THE VIET CONG, ETC. THESE CONVERSATIONS HAVE REAPED INTERESTING INSIGHT INTO HER AND HER HUSBAND'S THINKING, MOTIVATION, PERSONAL PROPLEMS, PLANS ETC. B. THOUGH UNLIKELY IT POSSIBLE THAT WE MAY HAVE TO MOVE MADAME B-1 ALONG EITHER THROUGH "DISPUTED" AREA SVN OR ONTO CAMBODIAN SOIL TO GET HER WITH THIS IN MIND HAVE LOCALLY FARRICATED BACK TO HEP SIDE. SVN IDENTITY CARD PLUS CAMPODIAN ALIEN REGISTRATION DOCUMENT. EITHER OF WHICH WE WILL ISSUE TO HER JUST PRIOR TO HER LAUNCH. SHE INSISTS THAT SHE KNOWS NO ROUTE INTO MR-4 AND WOULD BE EQUALLY HELPLESSILU GETTING THROUGH TO COSVN; HOWEVER SHE DID LIVE IN PHNOW PENH AND SAYS SHE RETAINS SOME KHMER LANGUAGE FACILITY. C. MADAME B-1 WELL UNDERSTANDS THAT SHE HAS NO "ROLE" NOR "MISSION" AND THAT SHE IS BEING SIMPLY RELEASED AS WAS HER OLD FRIEND SAU HAR HOWEVER, -- WHENEVER WE FIND HER IN A RECEPTIVE FRANE OF MIND WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH HER POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES OF FACE TO FACE SECRET TALKS BETWEEN HER HUSBAND AND/OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE VIET CONG OFFICIALS AND A REPRESENT-WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT IF SHE WISHES LATIVE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT. TO DO SO SHE COULD MENTION THIS TO B-1 WHEN SHE REJOINS HIM AND ADD THAT IN OUR VIEW THESE UNOFFICIAL MEETINGS COULD BE HELD IN A THIRD (UNSPECIFIED) COUNTRY OR EVEN IN SVN AT A PLACE WHERE THE U.S. COULD GUARANTEE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE VIET CONG REPS; IN THIS CONTEXT SHE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE DAU TIEN/BEN CUI REGION COOKS CLOSE TO THE IDEAL SINCE IT IS MILITAPILY QUIET, VC ABOUND IN THE PROXIMITY AND THERE ARE NO BARVN ELEMENTS OR GVN CHECK POINTS FOR THE VIET CONG REPS TO CONCERN THEMSELVES ABOUT. SHE HAS PROMISED TO RELAY THIS PER-SOWALLY TO HER HUSBAND AND HAS THE PERSONAL HUNCH THAT HE JUST MIGHT BE INTERESTED WHEN HE HEARS OF THE SINCERITY AND RELIABILITY OF OUR SIDE AS DEMONSTRATED TO HER AND SAU HA.

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